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5 November 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. John H. Crimmins
Coordinator of Cuban Affairs

SUBJECT: Arms Delivery to Manuel RAY Movement
in Costa Rica

The following message has been received [24] through our channels from Costa Rica:

"1. Ambassador Telles asks that the following be discussed with appropriate Department officers including Assistant Secretary Mann.

"2. In a discussion with President Orlich re arms shipment noted in State A-44 on 3 November, the Ambassador learned that arms are being purchased by Manuel RAY. Although Lieutenant Colonel Fernando FIGUEROA Quiroz has indicated to an Army mission source that the shipment will enter Costa Rica, the President is of the opinion that arms will not come here. Neither the President nor Figueroa has indicated ultimate designation of these arms.

"3. The President further repeated to the Ambassador that both Ray and Manuel ARTIME had told him 'confidentially' that the U.S. Government is behind them, but they had promised their U.S. Government contacts not to reveal this. Based on this disclosure, the President indicated willingness to cooperate with Ray to help the U.S. and thus, in this instance (as in previous case with Artime), assigned Figueroa to handle arrangements. The President, however, desires assurance that the U.S. Government wants Ray to have this shipment and that this shipment and Costa Rica's continued participation will contribute to achievement of the important U.S. objective. In other words, President Orlich has indicated a willingness to stick his neck

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out and that of his country if the U.S. Government thinks this is really worthwhile.

"4. Unless there are overriding reasons, the Embassy recommends against the shipment of arms with U.S. markings to Costa Rica. We feel that the shipment cannot be kept secret and could create a real problem for the present Government (reverse of Venezuela Castro cache). The Embassy is also concerned that State A-44 arrived with no controls.

"5. Unless we are prepared to run the risk of disclosure that the U.S. Government is involved in this shipment to Ray and that the use of these arms meets with our approval, the Ambassador recommends that the license not be issued.

"6. The Ambassador desires instructions in order to answer President Orlich's query and also if and how State A-44 is to be answered."

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[Bruce B. Cheever]